

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 have been cancelled and claims 3-4 and 5-11 have been amended. New claims 31-32 have been added. No new matter is introduced by these new claims. Claim 31 is supported on page 11, last paragraph, among other places. Claims 32 and 33 are supported on page 9, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph and Fig. 1, among other places. Claims 3, 4, and 10-32 remain pending.

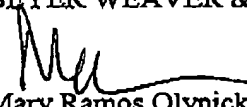
The Examiner has objected to the specification and it has been amended according to the Examiner's suggestion.

The Examiner has stated that claims 12-30 are allowed and that claims 3-4 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten into independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Hence, claim 3 and 4 have each been amended to include the limitation of original claims 1 and 2. Claim 10 has been amended to include the limitations of original claims 1 and 9. Dependent claims 5-9 have been amended to depend from allowable claim 3, rather than cancelled claim 1.

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 5-9, and 11 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by McCreery et al. (U.S. patent 5,787,253). These claims have been cancelled to expedite prosecution and the Applicant reserves the right to pursue these claims (or an amended form of these claims) in a continuing application.

Applicant believes that all pending claims are allowable and respectfully requests a Notice of Allowance for this application from the Examiner. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone conference would expedite the prosecution of this application, the undersigned can be reached at the telephone number set out below.

Respectfully submitted,  
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP

  
Mary Ramos Olynick  
Reg. 42,963

P.O. Box 778  
Berkeley, CA 94704-0778  
(510) 843-6200